

Article appeared  
on page 6-A

1.01 Turner, Adm  
SALT (veri)  
P Lewis, Angelo

## CAN MONITOR WITHIN YEAR, HE CLAIMS

# Powell Disputes SALT-Gap Story

By Angelo Lewis  
Constitution Staff Writer

**JEKYLL ISLAND** — The White House moved Wednesday to discredit reports that the United States will not be able to verify Soviet compliance with SALT II treaty terms for several years.

A Carter administration spokesman denounced as "inaccurate" newspaper stories quoting CIA Director Stansfield Turner as saying that because of the loss of its bases in Iran, the U.S. will not be able properly to monitor Soviet compliance with new Strategic Arms Limitation Agreements until 1984.

Press Secretary Jody Powell said U.S. intelligence will be able to monitor Russian missile-testing activities adequately within one year—not five, as reported.

Turner's remarks were reportedly made to the Senate Intelligence Committee in a classified session last week. The New York Times, quoting congressional sources, reported Tuesday that Turner estimated that because of the loss of two electronic monitoring posts in Iran, it would take the United States five years to recoup intelligence losses there.

The issue of "verifiability" has become a key issue separating the Carter administration and opponents of ratification of the SALT II agreement.

"Whereas it is accurate to say that it will take us three to four years to essentially recoup the intelligence we were getting from those stations," said Powell, "those stations provided information above and beyond what was necessary to verify the SALT treaty."

Defense Secretary Harold Brown said Tuesday that it would take about a year to regain the verification capability necessary for assuring SALT compliance.

Brown said that "through existing monitoring systems or replacements for the Iranian sites, it is my judgment that our monitoring will be such as to provide adequate verification as to Soviet compliance."

Turner endorsed the clarification made by Brown and Powell.

A spokesman for Turner Wednesday called the news leak "an oversimplification of the highly classified and very complicated subject." That spokesman, Herbert Hetu, called the disclosure "a selective leak" and said the Times story was "inaccurate."

A Senate source close to the Intelligence Committee said Wednesday, "The administration is very worried that if Turner comments specifically, he'll have to respond to specific questions."

That source, contacted by telephone, characterized the administration's current position as "hiding behind secrecy."

"What the administration ought to do is to admit that there are certain things they can verify and others they can't," the source said.

Powell said Wednesday that the administration has been put in the "unfortunate" position of not being able to "go in and collect information" means of gathering information on Soviet compliance "without jeopardizing our ability to collect information."

Powell added, "It's very difficult for the administration to provide sensitive and highly classified information to the Senate which they need in order to make an informed judgment if you're going to be subjected to the leak of that information—particularly in a distorted fashion."

He said his statement was not meant as a criticism of Turner or the news-gathering process.

An opponent of ratification, Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, said through a press spokesman that "information we've received"—the source of which he refused to specify—confirms that the United States will be unable to insure Soviet compliance because of the loss of Iran.

Garn had issued a statement earlier in the week accusing the Carter administration of attempting to minimize the impact of the losses of the Iranian posts. "The administration is in a virtual state of panic over the verification issue," Garn said.

Opponents of ratification, the CIA spokesman said, should be "trying it inside (the Senate) rather than in the newspapers. To leak it . . . is damaging to the country."

A Senate critic of the treaty, who was reported to have been present at the closed session last week, was quoted as saying, "From what we've been told, the United States would only be completely back in business one year before the treaty is scheduled to run out."

The provisions of SALT II, if ratified, would last until 1985.

Garn and Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., were reportedly so irked by Turner's statements that they called Carter shortly after the testimony to complain. But Powell was unable to verify Wednesday that Carter had received the complaints.

"They're making a mistake by not facing up now to the weaknesses in their own arguments," a source close to the Senate said. "The bottom line is that we cannot verify major provisions of the treaty."

The president also announced Wednesday that he intends to nominate Gen. Robert H. Barrow, U.S.M.C., to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Barrow would replace Gen. Louis H. Wilson, who is retiring on June 30, 1979.

In the seventh day of the president's 8-day vacation on secluded Sapelo Island, 30 miles from here, Carter jogged, took a brief swim in the ocean, and drove Charles Kirbo and Kirbo's wife to catch a plane to Atlanta.

Shortly after 9 a.m., First Lady Rosalynn Carter departed Sapelo by helicopter for Brunswick Airport and flew to Raleigh, N.C., to give opening remarks at the Governors' Conference on Mental Health.

While in Raleigh, Mrs. Carter will also meet with 250 North Carolinians, including North Carolina's First Lady, Carolyn Hunt, who departed Wednesday on a Friendship Force mission to Newcastle, England.

After fishing with Brunswick residents Jim Bishop and Carlton Hicks.



REMARKS IN DISPUTE  
Stansfield Turner